



February 17, 2009

Dear: Members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Paul Knickerbocker and I am the Plant Engineering and Facilities Manager of The Siemon Company. Our company is a 4th generation privately owned manufacturer of Copper and Optical Fiber Based Telecommunications Cabling Systems and Components. Our company was established and has manufactured in Connecticut since 1903. We are a global company with our corporate headquarters and main manufacturing facilities located in Watertown employing about 480 local people. **I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS OUR COMPANIES OBJECTION TO SECTION 1 OF SB-871. AN ACT INCREASING THE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.** I have handled the Environmental concerns for The Siemon Company for over 20 years and have seen the continual increase over the years of more and more regulations which have placed an ever increasing burden on employers here in Connecticut. The Siemon Company has always taken a strong environmental stewardship position and has continually strived to improve. We have been ISO 14001-2004 certified since 1998 and have won several environmental improvement awards including several Connecticut Department of Environmental Protections Green Circle awards. Providing the resources for this continual improvement has been a challenge and will be especially difficult in these struggling economic times. Instead of increasing wide spread enforcement authority, I suggest that the DEP focus on enforcement of existing laws on the truly "bad actors" and on violations that directly impact the environment. Here at The Siemon Company we took the lead to understand the regulations that pertained to us and build our EMS accordingly to minimize our environmental impact. I have been approached many times by other companies asking how we achieved what we now have and would suggest to you that the D.E.P. would achieve greater compliance from businesses by helping them to understand the regulations so they can figure how to comply rather than using existing resources for enforcement actions. Please do not pass section 1 of SB-871.

Sincerely,
Paul Knickerbocker

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